

City of Chicago
DISTRICT COUNCIL # 010
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: Regular Special Closed

MEETING DATE: August 15, 2023

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Lawndale Christian Legal Center 1530 S Hamlin- Chicago, IL

MEETING START TIME : 6 : 0 0 P M .

Attendance & Quorum

OMA Meeting cannot take place without 2 out of 3 members present in-person.

District Council Member Name	Attendance		
Chair: Kiisha Smith	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remote: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Elianne Bahena	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remote: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Rosemarie Dominguez	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remote: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: No:

Public Comment

Summary of public comments:

Gabe Miller- I am a resident in the 10th district Thank you for hosting the meeting. July meeting with COPA was a great display of DC power. We are in a new phase of struggle. DC's exist because COPA has not been able to stop police crimes. I am also looking forward to mobilizing against arbitrations decision to the access police crimes behind closed doors.

Dod McColgan- I am a resident of the 10 and a member of the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. I am happy to see the last meeting to get COPA to come out. And how the DC's have been so active. I also want to ask if the district councilors are able to meet with COPA regarding the unnamed officer, to see what is going to happen moving forward. Such allegations tend to be repeated. However, without a victim to be identified and without the release of the officer's name... we need to ensure the asylum seekers are getting fair treatment. We ask that everyone contact their alderperson to vote against that decision. We need the police board to maintain it's powers and handle these situations not behind closed doors.

Michael Keaton: There are many issues happening in Little Village surrounding gang matters, with crime occurring and I would like to know if you have additional resources for these individuals because it is getting out of hand.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes are approved by the second regular meeting after they are taken. Approved minutes are posted online within 10 days after approval.

What to type:

1. Date of meeting minutes: July 11, 2023
2. Summary of any corrections to the minutes (if applicable)
3. DC Member that made the motion to approve
4. Summary of any debate: Chairwoman, Kiisha Smith, asked what specifically was changed. Community Coordinator, Rosemarie Dominguez, stated she included much more context for public comment, discussion, COPA's full response on the open investigation, and questions that surfaced from community, and COPA's response. The total number of pages of the minutes were about 16 pages.
5. Who voted yes, who voted no: All DC members voted yes.
6. Result of the vote (win/approved or fail/not approved): Win/ approved by all.

Summary of the monthly update from each member of the District Council

Kiisha Smith- in reference to COPA situation, I have emailed them requesting that they at least release the name to us, and have asked that they provide us with a weekly update moving forward. Whether it be where they went and who they spoke to, and everything like that so. At our next meeting, hopefully we will have more updates regarding that. We will also attempt to make a new public statement once we get the next response from them. Another update is from the Superintendent search. I am sorry, we have the commander is here to also provide a slight update. At our last meeting the officers refused to speak on it. He agreed that he could enlighten us with as much as he could today.

Commander William Betancourt: Hello I am Will Betancourt. I apologize for my absence; I have been in training since the last meeting. We cannot relinquish a lot. People came in with preconceived notions, COPA, has come into my district and recovered all the cameras- parking lot, lobby all cameras. From what has been gathered it has been a rumor that was started. It looks like it is a rumor. As far as the officer, I wanted to mention that this officer has the same right as everyone sitting in this room. And if we are talking about restorative justice, then whether proven guilty or innocent, he has the same rights as everyone. I am being open as I can. Miss Smith will hold me to the wall, she and I have gone back and forth. There is no reason for me to hide anything. We are trying to eliminate this, we are trying to be part of the community. That is where we are at. I would ask, and this is me asking. If this is a fallacy, can we at least put something out, that everyone makes mistake. We are looking for that hand in hand, in saying that we got you. My officers have not been the same since this all started. He is also part of this community. I am asking for patience, and hopefully we will have this resolved.

Community updates:

Michael: Riot Fest is also hiring, if people know anyone who is looking for a job opportunity. I can go ahead and send over the flyer to you all. I am not sure how much pay or what the job types are but they are hiring.

Charzele: We are looking for employment opportunities to share with Sankofa house.

Discussions

Summary of discussions ()

Dod: Asked a question was unclear of the question.

Commander: What I am saying when it is put out publicly like that, it is bad press. We are judging them before. As human beings we tend to conform immediately.

Michael: Made a comment, unclear. What was mentioned.

Dod: Mentioned something.

Community member: are there still migrants at the district.

Commander and DCs: No

Kristian Armendariz- What is going in with the district coordinators officers (DCOs)? Sargent Claudio and officer Garcia, there are a lot of issues going on in the neighborhood and they are trusted individuals who responded to community:

Commander: They are back.

Kiisha: Did you want to make the other announcement?

Commander: The Mayor and I had a conversation for about 30 mins, I have ideas of my own on how we improve the community. We want more educated individuals, but I also want someone with passion and someone from the community. I would like from District 10 is to improve the community. As soon as I get the approval from the City, I would to come to you all and ask, we have to bring people who know the community, we need to bring community back to community to protect the community. Then have Miss. Smith, this is what we want from our police officers:

Jimmy: to your point, How does that look like? How would you want the community to back you up?

Commander: you know someone that would make a great police officer, and come up with different solutions instead of arrests. Policing has never been correct. But can we make it better, can we fix what has been wrong. We need the community to correct it so if you know those folks, let me know. We want police mistreatment down to nothing.

Jimmy: there was something that happened on the weekend... there was a shooting that could have ended in a homicide... so everything that...

Commander: There was an event that too place on happened on 26th street. There are three individuals in a van, that started shooting, in a white unmarked van. Continues to describe the shooting incident. We are trying to work with a lot of youth today.

Elianne: Commander can we get one more update. On September 15, there is going to be two big events, Riots Fest, and Mexican Independence Day Parade. Can you share the plans for that day.

Commander: We are still discussing the plan, the biggest one, is to have a large presence for those who want to enjoy the fest and the parade.

Rosemarie: Will have protocol to shut down the streets during Mexican Independence Parade. If so, can you share that so we can let community members know.

Commander: We always talk to Mike Rodriguez, but we always shut down from Kedzie to Pulaski because that is the most activity. We have been successful. If you would like to come join us and that would help us see the community support. We are hoping that the different factions will keep their word and have a safe weekend.

Rosemarie: Michael I wanted to address your comment on addressing some of the violence and resources. So we have been in communication in terms of how can we kind of develop like our resource toolbox with addressing some of these families. But I know I personally reached out to local nonprofits who rolls are supposed to mitigate a lot of the violence that's occurring. I haven't really received a response. I think that's because again, our roles are still fairly new. There's still a lot of sentiment with you know, do you work with the police or not And if you do, you know, no communication. I think we see the work with the neighborhood policing initiative and you know, the struggles that it took and time to build that that trust but. I'm looking to bring that back full circle again. We wanna work together. We I I do hear you with a lot of times that's been happening. I get the citizens alert app but Yeah, it's it's happening everywhere. So just wanted to get back to you.

Elianne: In terms of the public comment, the three of us are committed to contacting our aldermanic representatives, that when the arbitration vote does come to city hall that we have contacted our representatives to vote against.

Charzele: How soon will we hear about the police job opportunities open up?

Commander: Hopefully soon. Depending on the City, 6 months to a year, or 3 to 4 months. But I am pushing that.

Elianne: The superintendent has been selected and it is Larry Snelling. It still has to go to city council. As the person of the nominating committee, our first meeting was done in Austin area and out next meeting is Saturday August 19. It is a closed meeting. We are developing the application process for the commission, a timeline, and as soon it is open, I will let you all know. We want the community to know about this and for the time being we are trying to do this in the next three months. We will share updates from the closed meetings

Rosemarie: I wanted to share the community survey. We want the community to vocalize what public safety means for them to help shape the communities. And what resources. If this what they are saying they need this for their blocks, neighbors, etc. then we can push for what they need.

Dod: For the nominating committee will there be any public meetings: Are there opportunities with city wide public meetings

Elianne: We have had closed meetings, and because we cannot violate the open meetings act. but we there are also sub meetings to work around the guidelines. If you continue to come and invest in these meetings, we hope to address and share furthermore.

Community member: What about the kids? How can they get involved?

Gabe: a lot of people present in the last meeting. How can we help to ensure that that presence is like last time? How can we help get the word out?

Kiisha: Are you asking on how you can assist us? The issue at hand brought a lot of the people out, and we did come out with one public statement. And the fact that Copa was showing up, people wanted to hear what COPA had to say about the situation. We want to be able to canvas. One day out of the week and when we start that, we want to let you all know. We want to go to door and meet community members and encourage them to come out to the next meeting. If you can add our flyers to your monthly announcements and create a schedule.

Elianne: We are being very intentional in all wards about inviting and sharing. We reached out to state representatives and other elected officials to share.

Rosemarie: In our first meeting we did have a community member mentioned that she did not feel safe stepping into little village because she has had issues with her car being broken into. Some people just don't feel safe crossing Cermak or Ogden. And so we want to be able to work with agencies, organizations and residents. To ensure that their safety is our concern. We want to move these meetings around and we want to encourage everyone that. Because this notion of not feeling safe. Is not a barrier to. Ensuring that there's community involvement.

Community member: Can you share example of what you all stated? Of how you can get people to come across. This is my beat 1014, that has always been our problem with people crossing.

Rosemarie: The individual that brought this up, she mentioned it might have been a because she was African American. And so the commander has mentioned that. He would not mind having a police car outside of the meeting locations. Again, we want people to feel safe even after they leave. 10 to strict does not have to come out, come out to our meetings, but they have been consistent since our very first one.

Commander: Yeah. The young woman mentioned hse got her windows busted. So we are unsure if it was because she is African American or whether it was just someone just busting windows. But again, we can have a police car present outside.

Kiisha: We cover with three communities, North Lawndale, Pilsen and Little Village. And we are trying to find a middle area where. People from the 24th Ward will feel comfortable participating. So that is why we have been moving the meetings around, in all three communities. We want to find a border place that everyone feels safe coming to regardless of location.

Elianne: I wanted to go back to being community engaged. It helps when you have a trusted neighbor who is in the know and has the resources. We can make sure that you all share because we are aware of the borders. That is why the community survey is there, we only had one person but we need to make sure we know what the community needs.

Rosemarie: just want to reiterate that we are hoping all of you who have come here today feel safe not only in this space, but anywhere you navigate. And apart from, you know, challenging people to come out. Um. We also need to challenge them to, you know, change their perception outside of their block. The only way we're going to be able to address these issues if they're coming out and vocalizing and seeing that there isn't any tension. Rather, these are people coming together because they want to work together for a better neighborhood, a better community, a safer community. These are real relationships that we are trying to cultivate and foster.

Community member: But what about the youth? What are we doing to engage them? They need programs. They need, you know, things to keep them busy. We need to reach out to these kids, give them these flyers and ask them what can we do for them? We need to be forreal about it. There are a lot of funds out there but nothing going towards kids. We need programs and activities for them.

Kiisha: What suggestion can you give? How you we approach them. What are some of the places that we can go?

Community member: I live in the Sankofa house. We opened up cooking classes for kids. We need to lean on one another. We also need the parents to get it together. This is a family problem not just the kids. God is not a factor in their kids lives. We have to take our village back. We have to get our neighbors involved to feel confident to see our children doing bad and doing something.

Jimmy: I hear and feel what everyone is saying. But kids will not go where they do not feel safe. We got kids that cannot cross the next block. We need central centers and had services that picked children up to take them to a destination so they can participate. This gym room should be filled with kids.

Votes

Summary of votes taken. For each vote, type in the following information:

1. Description of the motion ("Motion to decide to amend the minutes from July's Monthly Meeting, add further word for word for the summary and meeting's discussions)
2. Member making the motion (Moved by Rosemarie Dominguez, Kiisha Smith, second the motion, and Elianne Bahena with the final motion)
3. Summary of any debate or discussion
Rosemarie Dominguez discussed wanting to include word for word for COPA's process, who they are, what they do, and about the open investigation. Furthermore, COPA discussed where they were in terms of the open investigation and have not found any allegation to be true or any minor to come forward.
4. How each member voted (Yes votes on amending the minutes to include everything that was said rather to provide summary– Members Kiisha Smith, Elianne Bahena and Rosemarie Dominguez)
5. Result of the vote (wins or fails)- N/A

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 12, 2023 6pm

NEXT MEETING LOCATION: Instituto Progreso Latino 2520 S Western

District Council ended the meeting at: 7:30pm